IC 75-252.
26 September 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence
                  Community
                  Associate Deputy to the DCI for the
                  Intelligence Community

SUBJECT: NSC/WSAG Staff Operations Center

REFERENCE: Memo for the Director from Mr. Knoche,
                  dated 17 September 1975, subject:
                  Crisis Management and Operations
                  Centers

1. Mr. Colby's comment on the above memorandum said:

"The real key is to focus crisis management
on NSC and WSAG--and hang the intel input onto
those. Then recognizing the op secrecy, narrowing
of circles and verticalization of intel that occur
in crises. Then get a structure of a WSAG Working
Group with both intel and operational members to
staff WSAG and integrate all info."

2. The implementation of such a policy depends
heavily on properly organized communication. Both the
NSC and the WSAG are not continuously operating bodies.
WSAG does not even have a staff. Both bodies, when they
are in session, depend primarily on the limited communica-
tions support of the White House Situation Room (WHSR).

3. The integration of information "both intel and
operational" would require CONTEXT-type communication tools
plus other techniques of rapid retrieval of not only docu-
ments but of expertise as well. Vertical conferencing also
should be provided.

4. A WSAG staff should not be constructed around
substantive experts--crises are too varied to allow such a

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structure. Instead, a WSAG staff should be composed of people who know the national nervous system well enough to be able to tap the sources of input information as well as know the paths from decision to execution.

5. If you concur, we will include in the CONTEXT Plan a provision for the eventual inclusion of a full CONTEXT terminal at the WHSR. This would not imply, however, that the White House would be included in all types of CONTEXT conferences.

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cc:

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